Socialist Worker

HOSPITAL WORKERS:

REJECT THIS PRODUCTIVITY DEAL:

Spread the action

THE UNION leaders are trying to get general hospital workers to sign up to a deal which means more productivity and hardship.

Workers should ask why a deal which has been signed in their name has not been immediately circulated to their jobs. *Socialist Worker* has obtained a copy and we can reveal that it calls for:

■*"Flexibility in deployment of staff within the same institutions of the same employer".*

This means that you can be moved to different hospitals in the Eastern Health Board, for example. There would be no extra compensation for crossing traffic in Dublin or elsewhere. The deal says you would have to accept the move 'under protest'.

■*Flexible Working Hours/Rosters*

The deal says that there can be rostering 'on earlier starts and later finishes'. It wants to bring in a 'combination of long and short days'. This means that the management will limit overtime payments and have workers come in at times when it suits them.

■*Yellow Pack labour.*

The deal says that temporary staff can be paid 87.5% of the minimum rate for three months. This is opening the door for gross exploitation and more use of temporary staff.

■*More Contract labour and use of Community Employment Schemes.*

The deal says that the decision on 'contract work is the sole prerogative of management'.

This gives them a blank cheque to take on contract workers at any time they like. The deal also calls for co-operation with Community Employment Schemes which can be used to eliminate permanent jobs.

■*No improvement in pensions.*

Hospital workers have a terrible pension scheme but this deal gives no improvement on pensions. And remember that if you accept this deal you cannot advance any other claims until the year 2000.

A rank and file revolt

HOSPITAL workers across Ireland are in revolt against their union leaders.

On Thursday morning SIPTU officials shouted, argued and gave out to workers in Cork to get them to pass pickets.

But they failed.

The same thing happened in Kilkenny on Tuesday and Waterford on Monday.

It is easy for bureaucrats to recommend productivity concessions because they won't have to work them.

Workers should control their own union.

What you can do

■The union leaders should be told that this deal is not acceptable. *Workers want the full pay increase backdated to 1st July 1997—with no strings attached.* When the Celtic Tiger is booming, it is time workers got a share.

■Spread the action. The union officials want to re-ballot—but workers have already voted twice for what they want. These officials are not concerned about democracy—but only want to break the momentum for protest. *Prepare next week to spread the action in Dublin and across the country.*

■On Monday 18th May at 2.30, there is a meeting in Liberty Hall on this deal. Turn up and make your feelings known.

■Get active—join the socialists. It is only the socialists who are standing up for workers rights today. That is why tens of thousands voted for Carolann Duggan when she ran in SIPTU election. We need a bigger network of socialists to change this union. That is why you should get involved.

■*If you want copies of the full deal, ring the Socialist Worker on 8722682 and we will get it to you.*

Join the Socialist Workers Party

Name _____

Address _____

_____ **Phone** _____

❑ **I want to join the SWP**
❑ **I want more details**
❑ **I want to receive Socialist Worker regularly**

Return to SWP PO Box 1648, Dublin 8, Tel (01) 872 2682